

REMARKS**Restriction Requirement**

Applicants elect Group I (represented by now canceled Claims 1-6, 14, and 17-18), directed to a viscosity-sensitive system or a food product or beverage comprising a soluble fiber source and a polysaccharide. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

New Claims 35-48

Claims 35-48 are directed to a low viscosity glucomannan composition, comprising glucomannan and an edible viscosity lowering polysaccharide having a molecular weight of from about 1,000 to about 50,000 daltons, dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the composition has a low viscosity compared to glucomannan dispersed in the aqueous medium in the absence of the viscosity lowering polysaccharide, wherein the aqueous medium is selected from the group consisting of milk, milk-based beverage, carbonated beverage, fruit-based beverage, beer, wine and soy milk. The subject matter of new Claims 35-48 is similar to the subject matter of the invention of elected Group I. Thus, new Claims 35-48 are encompassed by the invention of elected Group I.

Support for new Claims 35-48 can be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification. For example, page 6, lines 4-19 describes the invention as including a viscosity lowering compound comprising glucomannan, thereby providing support for new Claim 35. Page 7, lines 13-16 describes examples of the aqueous medium. Page 9, lines 9-11 describes an embodiment wherein the amount of inulin is from about 0.5% to about 30% by weight. Page 10, lines 1-29 describes the invention as including food products and beverages; including fat containing food or beverages and reduced fat, low fat or fat free food products or beverages.

Amended Claims 19, 20 and 29 are drawn to the non-elected subject matter of Group III. Support for the amendments to Claims 19, 20 and 29 is found, for example, at page 7, lines 13-16. It is appreciated that Claims 19, 20 and 29 and the claims that depend from Claims 19, 20 and 29 will be withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Nonetheless, these claims are being presented at this time in anticipation of rejoinder,

pursuant to U.S. Patent Office practice (M.P.E.P. § 821.04), if claims drawn to Group I are found to be allowable.

Entry of new Claims 35-48 is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith. In addition, the following prior Information Disclosure Statements have been made in the subject application:

IDS filed January 16, 2004;

SIDS filed January 21, 2005;

SIDS filed September 19, 2005; and

SIDS filed August 28, 2006.

Entry of the above Information Disclosure Statements is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner would like to discuss the Reply to Restriction Requirement and Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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